

REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH OF THE LEISTON AND SIZEWELL  
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR 1898.

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In accordance with the regulations of the Local Government Board I have made my report for the year 1898.

The Public Health of the district has continued favourable: the birth rate is good, the death rate low.

There has been no outbreak of notifiable infectious disease to cause anxiety, the four cases that have occurred being Diphtheria, and in no case was there any second person infected in the same house. As Diphtheria is the only case<sup>of</sup> notifiable disease occurring, it would be satisfactory to be able to trace the causes for the cases with which we have had to deal.

It has never been definitely traced to water pollution. Probably exposure to emanations from drains, deadwells &c, may excite a noninfective sore throat that may serve as a suitable soil for the development of the diphtheria germ when present in the air.

In one case the presence of a foul smelling refuse heap close to the House offered an explanation: in another the house and surroundings were quite new, and presumably healthy, offering no explanation: in the other two cases there was nothing special to record.

From Typhoid Fever, the one disease chiefly concerned with defective water supply and drainage, we have been singularly free. As far as I can ascertain there has only been one death from this cause since 1872, nevertheless given an "imported case", there would be great danger of the disease spreading when the water supply is contaminated by the products of sewage.

Out of the 36 deaths recorded for the year, Consumption is accountable for six. Consumption is an infectious disease and may be prevented, and I think we should take every means in our power to that end.

1. By ensuring a supply of pure milk, milk being a very common means of conveyance of the disease. All milk should be boiled or sterilised before being used.
2. By the erection of Public Slaughter Houses where the carcasses may be inspected before the evidence of disease is removed.





3. By the erection of Sanatoria for the treatment of Consumptives.  
County Councils should be induced to erect and maintain Sanatoria in the same way as Lunatic Asylums.

Insanitary conditions of trades is of course a prolific source of death from Consumption, but this does not apply to us, as out of the 6 cases referred to, 5 occurred in females, and the sixth in a labourer on the works who had suffered from the disease 15 years.

There has been only one death from Diarrhoea, which is satisfactory in view of the condition of our drainage and water supply, viz: a child of 6 mos old.

Of the remaining causes of death 13 occurred in persons of 65 and upwards.

Death rate. 12.2 per 1000.

Death rate for East Suffolk for the year 1897. 14.57 per 1000.

Death rate for England for the year 1897. 17.4 per 1000.

Blything, a Rural District, and Felixstowe, an Urban District, with Death rates respectively of 11.6 and 9.5, were the only districts in East Suffolk with a less death rate in 1897 than that of Leiston for this year, and Leiston last year had a death rate of 9.3.

Birth Rate. 26.1 per 1000.

do. for East Suffolk 1897- 26.85.

do. for England in 1897- 29.7.

Marriages. There were marriages giving a rate of per 1000.

Population at end of 1897- 2854.

Net gain by new occupants over removals in 1898- 81.

ditto Births over deaths in 1898. 41.

Population at end of 1898- 2976.

Houses. There were 673 houses at end of 1897, 19 new houses built and occupied in 1898.

Water Supply. Mr Fawcett, Local Government Board inspector, having condemned our present system of water supply, as a result of an enquiry held by him during the year, Your Council has commissioned their Engineer, Mr Miller, to prepare and submit plans for providing a better supply.

1881

Received of the Treasurer of the State of New York

the sum of \$100.00

for the purchase of land

in the town of ...

County of ...

State of New York

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The following is the classification of waters given in the Rivers Pollution Commission's Sixth Report.

Wholesome	Spring Water. Deep Well water. Upland Surface water.
Suspicious.	Stored rain water. Surface water from cultivated land.
Impure.	River water containing sewage. Shallow well water.

N.B. By a deep well is meant, speaking generally, anyone having a depth of over 50 feet.

Drainage. Your council, as a result of Mr Fawcetts report to the Local Government Board, has instructed Mr Miller, County Surveyor, to prepare and submit fresh plans for drainage.

Removal of Excrement. I have much pleasure in recording that, as recommended in my report for 1897, there has been a large increase in the use of the "pail closet system" during the year, also that the Council has undertaken to carry out the removal of the contents of these pails. I would venture to suggest that the Council should also undertake the supply of properly prepared earth for use with the pail system, though this would not be so necessary if the public would use the ashes resulting from the sifting of the house Cinders. One pound of dry earth is necessary for each time the closet is made use of under this system. I have no hesitation in saying that the dry earth system is the one, par excellence, for our requirements: but the same without the dry earth is defective. I venture to hope we may now see the insanitary pit system entirely abolished.

Isolation of Infectious Disease. It is with regret that I have to record that there is as yet no means provided for the Isolation of Infectious Disease. The want of such is likely to be even more felt in the near future, when we come to consider that, up to the end of 1898, it is estimated that fully one quarter of a million children have been exempted from Vaccination under the new Vaccination Acts.





In my inspections of the district during the year, I found the same unsatisfactory conditions which I had to record in my last report, viz: deficiency of closet accomodation, proximity of pigstyes to dwellings and wells, want of proper system of removal of ashes and other house refuse.

Your council, however, by their enlightened action in the adoption of bye laws, and themselves undertaking the removal of house refuse, have taken a most praiseworthy step towards the remedying of these defects, and the consequent improvement of the sanitation of the district.

The adoption of the Dry Earth System disposes of pit closets, and I hope shortly the deadwells will also be abolished by the drainage scheme your council intends to carry out.

Slaughter Houses. There is exhibited an earnest desire to keep the existing slaughter houses in as sanitary condition as is possible under the circumstances, but I would urge on your council the need for the erection of a public Abbattoir, this would be a great benefit to the community, and would not I think present any unsurmountable difficulty.

Signed: *Herbert M. Sylvester.*

*W. H.*  
*Leiston Urban District*  
*Council.*

February 1899.

